

Doubtful ballot papers – allowed first preferences only

Suggested examples of allowed first preferences only are provided here. All of these examples are based on the specific rules for the elections. Ultimately the decision on any particular ballot paper rests with the Local Returning Officer.

References are to the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012.

References to Rule 53(1) should be read, in respect of a second preference vote, with Rule 60(5).

Election of Police and Crime Commissioner for (insert name of police area) police area

Vote once in column 1 for your first choice, and
Vote once in column 2 for your second choice

	Column 1 first choice	Column 2 second choice
BOOTS, Dusty The League of Line Dancers Candidate	X	
GREY, Earl The Mad Hatter's Tea Party Candidate		X
HOOD, Robin The Forest Party Candidate		
JIANG, Mike Independent		X
MILLER, Windy The Alternative Power Forum Candidate		
WILLIAMS, Rhys Independent		

Allow for Boots as first preference and reject second preference – Rule 53(1)(b) – giving more than one second preference vote.

Election of Police and Crime Commissioner for (insert name of police area) police area

Vote once in column 1 for your first choice, and
Vote once in column 2 for your second choice

	Column 1 first choice	Column 2 second choice
BOOTS, Dusty The League of Line Dancers Candidate		
GREY, Earl The Mad Hatter's Tea Party Candidate	X	X
HOOD, Robin The Forest Party Candidate		
JIANG, Mike Independent		
MILLER, Windy The Alternative Power Forum Candidate		
WILLIAMS, Rhys Independent		

Allow for Grey as first preference and second preference cannot be counted. Rule 60(2)(b) – second preference cannot be counted. If Grey has been eliminated from the contest, a ballot paper marked up in this way will not be included in the count of second preferences. If Grey has remained in the contest, the second preference is not included in the count because the voter has already given their first preference to Grey.

Election of Police and Crime Commissioner for (insert name of police area) police area

Vote once in column 1 for your first choice, and
Vote once in column 2 for your second choice

	Column 1 first choice	Column 2 second choice
BOOTS, Dusty The League of Line Dancers Candidate		
GREY, Earl The Mad Hatter's Tea Party Candidate		X
HOOD, Robin The Forest Party Candidate		
JIANG, Mike Independent		
MILLER, Windy The Alternative Power Forum Candidate		
WILLIAMS, Rhys Independent		

Allow for Grey as first preference, as equivalent to a cross in each box against Grey, and second preference cannot be counted. Rule 60(2)(b) – second preference cannot be counted.

Election of Police and Crime Commissioner for (insert name of police area) police area

Vote once in column 1 for your first choice, and
Vote once in column 2 for your second choice

	Column 1 first choice	Column 2 second choice
BOOTS, Dusty The League of Line Dancers Candidate		
GREY, Earl The Mad Hatter's Tea Party Candidate	X	
HOOD, Robin The Forest Party Candidate		
JIANG, Mike Independent		X
MILLER, Windy The Alternative Power Forum Candidate		
WILLIAMS, Rhys Independent		

Allow for Grey as first preference and reject second preference. Rule 53(1)(e) – reject second preference vote as void for uncertainty as to the second preference vote. In this example, the inclusion of the candidate's name 'Miller' in the voting box conflicts with the cross in the second preference column and casts doubt over who the voter intended to vote for as to their second preference.